



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Pennsylvania man pleads guilty to transporting and possessing child pornography

WASHINGTON - A 36-year-old resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania, Marc Accardi, pled guilty today before the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to one count of Transportation of Child Pornography and one count of Possession of Child Pornography, announced U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy L. Lanier, and Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office.

At sentencing, which is scheduled for August 4, 2009, Accardi faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison, and a maximum sentence of 20 years of imprisonment, and a fine of \$250,000. Under sentencing guidelines, he faces a likely sentencing range of 121 to 151 months in prison.

According to the evidence presented at the plea, on November 21, 2008, a member of the FBI/MPD Child Exploitation Task Force, who was operating undercover and posing as a pedophile, entered a pedophile fetish chat room. Within minutes, the defendant and the undercover began having a conversation about children. In response to the undercover's inquiry regarding the age of children that the defendant preferred, the defendant wrote, "baby on up." Over the course of the chat, the defendant sent multiple still images of female children under 10 years-old having sexual contact with adult males.

In December 19, 2008, the execution of a search warrant for the defendant's house and his computer, revealed that the defendant possessed more than 1000 images of female children under the age of 10 years old having sexual contact with adult males.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood and the Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more

information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov/.

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor, MPD Chief Lanier, and FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini commended the outstanding investigative work of D.C. Metropolitan Police Detective Timothy Palchak and Criminal Investigator John Marsh. In addition, they commended Special Agents Scott Schelble and David Solis and Assistant U.S. Attorney Julianne Himmelstein, who prosecuted the case.

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